

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1806**

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, the Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the MRB South GBR: LA 1 to LA 30 Connector (MRB) Project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD), located at 1201 Capitol Access Road, Baton Rouge, LA, 70802. The funding will be used for the project's environmental phase. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the existing bridge infrastructure along the Mississippi River is not sufficient to support residents during normal rush-hour traffic or emergency evacuations. Additionally, a new connector across the Mississippi River will support South Louisiana's economic activity in the region and increase connectivity on I-10 improving freight mobility at the country's most active ports.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 U.S.C. §133. The surface transportation block grant program provides flexible funding for construction of highways, bridges, and tunnels. This project would build a bridge across the Mississippi River and thus is squarely authorized by the statute.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Garret Graves  
Member of Congress